



FACT SHEET

Kenya Transition Initiative (KTI)



Cartoon Commissioned by KTI for the Kenya Reform Roadshows. The roadshows raised awareness about the new opportunities in the Kenyan Governance system, alternatives to violence and frustration.

GOALS

Enable public institutions to undertake fundamental reforms and to manage instability and uncertainty.

Mobilize the public, especially the youth and key change agents, to demand accountability and reform.

KTI Project

Duration: June 2008- July 2013

Budget: \$50 Million

Sub-Grants: 527 sub-grants to approximately 300 different organizations. Average grant size is \$42,000

Location: KTI operates four project offices in Nairobi, Eldoret, Kericho, and Mombasa

Current Implementing Partner: Chemonics International, Inc.

Project Objectives:

The Kenya Transition Initiative is a project implemented through USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives that advances U.S. foreign policy objectives by contributing to a stable Kenyan policy centered on national identity rather than ethnic identities. KTI was launched in June 2008, in the wake of the devastating interethnic violence that followed the December 2007 national elections, to work towards the restoration of the nation's confidence and capacity in addressing instability, political marginalization and vulnerability to violence.

KTI aims to achieve its goals by providing fast, flexible, and uniquely targeted assistance to Kenyan state and non-state actors that are conducting innovative transition activities. This strategy helps project staff target pivotal local actors and support small, grassroots organizations to meet the unique needs of the evolving Kenyan environment. Current political issues shaping KTI programming include:

- Upcoming national elections in March 2013 which raise concerns of the election violence and mass displacement that have followed three out of the last four national elections in Kenya.
- The ongoing International Criminal Court trials of four Kenyans, charged with crimes against humanity for their involvement in the 2007 post-election violence, that threaten to exacerbate ethnic tensions.
- The persistent attacks by extremist groups and the recruitment efforts of these groups among Kenyan youth.
- The challenges facing the effective and efficient implementation of the provisions of the 2012 Constitutional Referendum.

Project Approach:

KTI works through its four field offices in Nairobi, Kericho, Eldoret, and Mombasa to provide support to local organizations, predominantly through grants. KTI policies and procedures have been designed to enable project staff to award these grants in a flexible, rapid, and fully compliant fashion, as well as to emphasize simplicity, accountability, and transparency. To address the political context and enable local actors to more fully exercise their capacity to manage instability and promote recovery from the 2007 – 2008 election-related violence, these activities have been designed to:

- Support grassroots advocacy campaigns to foster peace, reconciliation and peaceful co-existence among members of different ethnic communities.
- Mobilize the public and key change agents to promote alternative voices and support peace-building.
- Promote policy, legal and land reforms, and constitutional review and implementation.
- Enhance livelihoods opportunities for youth, many of whom are unemployed and easy targets for ethnicity-based manipulation by politicians.
- Promote free and fair elections, leadership and integrity in the run-up campaign for 2013 elections.



Photo: USAID

Kenyans attend the official launch of the Eldoret magistrate's court electronic case management system, the first in the country



Photo: USAID

Reform Roadshow held near Naivasha, a 2008 post-election violence hotspot.

KTI ACTIVITIES BY SECTOR



KTI in Action!

Promoting Reconciliation. Following the contested 2007 elections, KTI facilitated community dialogues in Burnt Forest, a town hard hit by post-election violence. Through the dialogue, female community members requested assistance for the rebuilding of the town market. KTI worked with the Burnt Forest Town Council to rebuild the market sheds and fill them with traders from all of the ethnicities of Burnt Forest.

Assistance to Parliament. In 2009, KTI provided live broadcast equipment and training to Kenyan journalists to facilitate the broadcast of parliamentary proceedings via television and radio. By enhancing the capacity of the Kenyan media, KTI enabled citizens across the country to better follow parliamentary activities and decisions, as well as track the participation and effectiveness of Members of Parliament.

The New Constitution. In the lead up to the August, 2010 constitutional referendum, widespread rumor and manipulation by politicians regarding the content of the proposed constitution threatened to undermine the referendum. To counter the rampant misinformation, KTI, in collaboration with USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance, provided support to the Nation and Standard Media groups to produce 1,250,000 copies of the draft constitution. These constitutions were used by the Committee of Experts on Constitutional Review to conduct civic education activities across Kenya. KTI also organized nationwide road shows to educate hundreds of thousands of Kenyans, to ensure the public was well-informed to participate in the dialogue on the draft constitution before the referendum. Ultimately, 67 percent of Kenyans voted for the new constitution, ushering in a new chapter in Kenya's governance and democracy.

Supporting Judicial Reform. In 2011, KTI sponsored the installation of an electronic case management system at the Eldoret magistrate's court to increase efficiency and accurate management of cases. The Eldoret court became the first magistrate court in Kenya with an electronic case management system.

KTI continues to promote key constitutional reforms and build the capacity of organizations to implement the reforms with the objective of supporting peaceful transition through the 2013 elections.

For more information:

Megan German
Program Manager – Kenya
USAID/OTI/Washington
202-712-1997
mgerman@usaid.gov